



WELCOME TO ST MARYS PARISH

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Office Hours - Mon, Tues, Fri 9.00am - 1.00pm

The Living Word

Third Sunday of Advent, Year A

11 December 2022

First Reading Is 35:1-6, 10

God himself will come and save us.

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult,
let the wasteland rejoice and bloom,
let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil,
let it rejoice and sing for joy.
The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it,
the splendour of Carmel and Sharon:
they shall see the glory of the Lord,
the splendour of our God.
Strengthen all weary hands,
steady all trembling knees,
and say to all faint hearts,
'Courage! Do not be afraid.
'Look, your God is coming,
vengeance is coming,
the retribution of God;
he is coming to save you.'
Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
the ears of the deaf unsealed,
then the lame shall leap like a deer
and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy,
for those the Lord has ransomed shall return.
They will come to Zion shouting for joy,
everlasting joy on their faces;
joy and gladness will go with them
and sorrow and lament be ended.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 145:6-10. R. see Is 35:4

(R.) Lord, come and save us.

or

(R.) Alleluia!

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free. (R.)
2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down,
the Lord, who protects the stranger
and upholds the widow and orphan. (R.)
3. It is the Lord who loves the just
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age. (R.)

Second Reading Jas 5:7-10

You also must be patient; do not lose heart, the Lord's coming will be soon.

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the

spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation Is 61:1 (Lk 4:18)

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;

he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.

Alleluia!

Gospel Mt 11:2-11

Are you the one who is to come, or must we wait for someone else?

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see: the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'



Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

Half way through Advent we pause for a moment to celebrate Gaudete Sunday, a Sunday for rejoicing. Isaiah paints a picture of regeneration. The desert that once seemed to be dead is now bursting with life; eyes that lacked sight, ears incapable of capturing and holding sound, limbs without strength, and tongues devoid of speech are all given new life. There will be no death in that age of fulfilment, no limitations, no mourning. As we move deeper and deeper into the reality of God's presence in our midst, we will discover the meaning of true fulfilment.

John the Baptist is a standard for judging the privilege of entering here and now, the kingdom of heaven. He was the herald of the coming of Jesus, the one who prepared for him, but John himself died before the death and resurrection of Jesus opened the flood gates of the eschatological tide. By comparison, even the least in the kingdom of God is far greater than this prophetic herald. John also serves as a model of patience in suffering. His circumstances teach us that moving toward eschatological fulfilment is not without cost.

Just as Matthew presents us with the example of John the Baptist, so James describes the patience required of those who await the age of fulfilment. That age of fulfilment will dawn in its time; all we can do is discharge our responsibilities regardless of how demanding they might be, and wait for that day patiently, convinced that it will come in God's due time.

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ST MARY'S PARISH MOTTO

"Reaching out to each other
- growing together in love"

St Mary's Mooroopna acknowledge the Yorta Yorta Nation and the Aboriginal people who have walked this land for thousands of years

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

Sat Vigil 6.30pm
Sunday 10.00am

RECONCILIATION

Thurs 15 Dec—7pm (after Mass)

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

Mon 12th Dec	Mass	6.00pm
Tues 13th Dec	Holy Hour Exposition Mass	5.00pm 6.00pm
Wed 14th Dec	Mass	6.00 pm
Thur 15th Dec	Mass	6.00pm
Frid 16th Dec	Mass	10.00am

PARISH / SCHOOL NEWS

EASY WORSHIP

Sat 10th Dec Valoia Family
Sun 11th Dec AM Carroll

Sat 17th Dec Carmel Fasano
Sun 18th Dec Valoia Family

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES FOR ST MARY'S

Christmas Eve Frid 24th Dec
6:30pm for Carols
7:00pm for Mass in the Church

Christmas Day Sat 25th Dec
10:00am Mass in the Church



Welcome to the Third Sunday of Advent

JOY

The Shepherds Candle

The angels sang the message of Joy (Luke 2:7-15)
The Third Sunday of Advent is Gaudete or Rejoicing Sunday and the candle is pink because rose is the liturgical colour of joy. It is meant to remind us of the joy that the world experienced at the birth of Jesus, as well as the joy that the faithful have reached at midpoint during Advent.



Advent Prayer

God of joy, it is in your love that we find lasting joy. Keep us from seeking happiness in things that will not last, for we brought nothing into this world and can take nothing out of it. Teach us instead to find joy in the gift of your Son, who came into this world with nothing, yet gave us everything. May his joy bubble up in our hearts and overflow to all well meet this Advent season.

AMEN

Reconciliation

Will be held on Thursday 15 December at 7:00pm.

This will follow mass at 6:00pm

CHANGE OF OFFICE HOURS

Our parish office hours have been altered to the following times :-

Monday 9.00am—1.00pm
Tuesday 9.00am—1.00pm
Friday 9.00am—1.00pm

THE CATHOLIC SHOP Christmas Catalogues Available in the Narthex

Featuring lovely statues, nativity scenes, wall crosses, Christmas cards etc. at affordable prices are available
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All proceeds to AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED

Come & join us

Misa de Gallo

Dawn Masses

In commemoration of the birth of Jesus Christ, we come to a nine-day series of Masses in spiritual preparation for

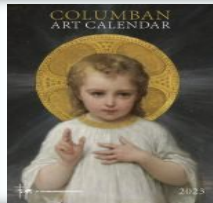
Christmas

St. Brendan's Church

16-24 December 2022

6:00 am

121 Knight St. Shepparton



Columban Calendars

Will be available after mass this weekend.

Cost will be \$8.00 each.

CLERGY APPOINTMENTS 2023-2027

Vicar General: Fr Joe Taylor

College of Consultors: Fr Vijay Bandanadam ALCP/OSS, Fr Brian Boyle, Fr Andrew Fewings, Fr Jake Mudge, Fr Junray Rayna, Fr Joe Taylor 2-4 non-voting lay participants, to be appointed after establishment of Sandhurst Mission and Pastoral Council

Deans: Fr John Paul Pasala (Goulburn Valley), Fr Junjun Amaya (North Eastern) and Fr Novelito Lim (Western).

Episcopal Vicar for Education: Fr Brian Boyle

Vocations Director: Fr Nathan Verallo

Director of Clergy Life and Ministry:

2023: Fr Brian Boyle, assisted by Fr Jake Mudge
2024-2027: Fr Jake Mudge

NEW PEDESTALS

St. Mary's have been fortunate to receive a very generous bequest from the Estate of the late John Hogan from Undera. In consultation with his family, it was decided to honour John with two beautiful new solid marble statues and accompanying pedestals. The statues are of Our Lady and Joseph the Carpenter and have been made in Italy. They are currently in transit on a boat from Italy and we expect them to arrive prior to the end of January. Because of the unexpected delay, Cameo Memorials from Fawcner have decided to install the pedestals this weekend. When the statues are finally in place, specialist lighting will be installed to compliment the overlook look of both the statues and pedestals. We thank you for your patience in this matter as we look forward to the arrival of our beautiful new statues.



With grateful thanks,
Brenda.

During the November 2022 plenary meeting of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, the Bishops strongly supported a proposal from Bishop Mykola Bychok CSsR, Eparch of Sts Peter and Paul for the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Australia, to **hold an appeal for the people of Ukraine.**



Bishop Shane strongly supports the proposal and has suggested parishes **have a second special collection** on the 3rd Sunday of Advent.

This will support the work of Mudra Sprava (Wise Action) a Patriarchal Charitable Foundation in Ukraine. The organisation has 3 focus area:

1. Evacuation of people from frontline territories
2. Food packages for people in need
3. Shelters for internally displaced persons.

ST BRENDAN'S CATHOLIC PARISH
121 Knight Street, Shepparton Ph 5821 2633

CHRISTMAS MASS PROGRAM

DAWN MASS /MISA DE GALLO
Daily Mass 16 - 24 December at 6.00 AM
Lavish breakfast in the Parish Centre to follow

RECONCILIATION
Wednesday 21 December 5PM - 6.30PM
Saturday 24 December 9.45AM - 10.30AM

CHRISTMAS EVE
SATURDAY 24 DECEMBER
All Masses will be inside St Brendan's Church

Children's Mass - 5.00 PM
The cash collection for this Mass will go toward supporting an orphanage in the Congo

Family Mass - 6.30 PM
Late Mass - 11.00 PM
Christmas Carols from 10.30PM
Fundraising LED candles & Christmas decals will be available to purchase @\$2 at all St Brendan's Masses

MASS AT DOOKIE - 7.00 PM
SYRO-MALABAR MASS - 8.00 PM

CHRISTMAS DAY
SUNDAY 25 DECEMBER
Masses at 8.00 AM & 11.00 AM



Readings
this Week

Isaiah 35:1-6,10
James 5:7-10
Matthew 11:2-11



Readings
for next
Sunday

Isaiah 7:10-14
Romans 1:1-7
Matthew 1:18-24

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MERRITT
FUNERAL SERVICES

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YOUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR

Sick List: Graeme Weir, Cherie Mammone, Jim McIntyre, Pat Keane, Pat Treacy, Irene Murphy, Irene Biesiekierski, Dennis Corboy, Barry Monaghan, Fr Steve Bohan, Parish Priest at Yarrowonga, Annette Kay (friend of Rosemary Haigh,) Kim Smyth, Noela McIntyre, Sam Sali, Rosemary Wingrave, Angelo Conti
Recently Deceased :
Anniversaries: Carol Beynon and Kristine Weatherley

ALTAR HELPERS 11th Dec Not required

18th Dec Michael & Marg McCarty

BINGO : 10th Dec Bev Ryan, Owen Macreadie, Mason Crosier, Carmel Fasano & Anne Maksacheff

10th & 11th December	COMMENTOR	READER	SPECIAL MINISTER	OFFERTORY
6:30 pm	Chris Hogarty	Marie O'Meara	Angela Iocona	Checca & Sarah Richards
10.00 am	AM Carroll	Anthony Butts	Inez Raleigh	Tom & Cecily Dumaresq
17th and 18th December				
6:30 pm	John Bosco Valoia	Kevin Murphy	Mavis Murphy	Chris & Miriam Hogarty
10.00 am	Brenda Pye	Imelda Valoia	Peter Stein	Valoia Family